

Message Text

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43

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 NEA-05 IO-09 IGA-02 EB-05 L-03 INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9498

INFO USMISSION USUN

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AIDAC

E. O. 11652: ADS DECLAS 4/24/74

TAGS: BGEN ENRG BG

SUBJ: REHABILITATION GRANT NO. 1 - IMODCO OIL BUOY

REF: (A) STATE 74530; (B) USUN 1477; (C) DACCA 1710;

(D) DACCA 1429; (E) DACCA 1576

1. RE PARA 4 REF B, CONFIRM IMODCO WILLING WITHDRAW PRE- WAR REPAIR CLAIM; PENDING CONCLUSION NEW CONTRACT. OUR INFO BASED ON STATEMENTS BY SAMAD, SECRETARY, MINISTRY FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND M. AYUB, IMODCO' S LOCAL ADVISOR.

2. REQUEST WASHINGTON RECONSIDER POSITION ON GRANT FINANCING IN LIGHT FOLLOWING FACTORS:

(A) IMODCO WITHDRAWAL CLAIMS REMOVING LEGAL OBSTACLES TO NEW CONTRACT;

(B) SAMAD BELIEF IMODCO TAKING MORE REASONABLE POSITION WHICH PROVIDES BASIS FOR NEGOTIATION;

(C) CONDITIONAL NATURE OUR OFFER FINANCE PER PARA 3 REF C; IDENTIFIED BY CHIEF TRANSPORTATION DIV PC;

(D) IMPORTANCE OIL BUOY, CONFIRMED BY MATELLI OF ESSO, LY TERMS FOREIGN EXCHANGE SAVING THROUGH REDUCED LIGHTERING AND DEMURRAGE COSTS;

(E) U. S. COMMERCIAL INTEREST NOTED REF E.

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3. REFS C AND D SUGGEST INVOLVEMENT AID IN CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN BDG AND IMODCO. THOUGH DDESIRABLE IN OUR VIEW, THIS NOT REPEAT NOT NECESSARY. WE PREPARED ADVISE BDG, THEY AND IMODCO MUST WORK OUT ARRANGEMENTS WITHOUT USG INVOLVEMENT ON UNDERSTANDING GRANT FINANCING AVAILABLE IF REPEAT IF CONTRACT PRESENTED TO AID AFTER NEGOTIATIONS COMPLETED ACCEPTABLE TO AID. IF NO AGREEMENT REACHED OR IT UNACCEPTABLE, FUNDS COULD BE QUICKLY REPROGRAMMED TO OTHER ELEMENTS TRANSPORTATION REHABILITATION SUB- PROJECT.

4. THERE IS SOME URGENCY RESOLUTION THIS MATTER. BUOY MUST BE REMOVED BEFORE MONSOON WEATHER PRECLUDES OPERATIONS IN BAY OF BENGAL. BUOY CAN THEN BE REHABILITATED DURING MONSOON AND REINSTALLED WHEN WEATHER ABATES PERMITTING RECOMMISSINGING BY EARLY 1974. FAILING THIS, NO WORK CAN BE INITIATED UNTIL AFTER MONSOON. APPARENTLY SOURCE OF FINANCING NOW ONLY REASON FOR BDG HESITANCY RESUME NEGOTIATIONS WITH IMODCO. SAMAD SEEKING ONLY VERBAL INDICATION AID WILLINGNESS FINANCE.

5. WE RECOGNIZE SLIGHTLY HIGHER LEVEL U. S. INVOLVEMENT EARLY STAGE THIS PROJECT DUE TO U. S. COMMERCIAL AND UN INTERESTS BUT REAFFIRM THAT DECISION ON PRIORITY AND INITIATIVE FOR REQUEST REST WHOLLY WITH PC. THEREFORE, IN LIGHT BENEFITS TO BD AND MINIMAL RISKS TO USG PER ABOVE, USCOR/ EMBASSY STRONGLY RECOMMEND CONDITIONAL OFFER TO CONSIDER FINANCING AND REQUEST AUTHORIZATION ADVISE BDG VERBALLY WITH LETTER TO FOLLOW ONLY ON RECEIPT WRITTEN REQUEST FOR FINANCING FROM PLANNING COMMISSION. FULLER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

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